

Message Text

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65-61

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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C - RBLACKWILL

S/S JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, US

SUBJECT: VE CELEBRATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE

REF: A) PRAGUE 656; B) STATE 57493

PRAGUE FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

1. DEPARTMENT PLEASED TO NOTE THAT GOC NOW SEEMS
WILLING TO GIVE SOME RECOGNITION TO US ROLE IN LIBERATING
BOHEMIA AND TO COOPERATE WITH US IN COMMEMORATING EVENT.
SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR WREATH-LAYING AND U.S. RECEPTION
WOULD APPEAR TO BE IN LINE WITH OVERALL OBJECTIVES FOR
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PARTICIPATION IN VE DAY EVENTS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF

REFTEL B). DEPARTMENT WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE NO OBJECTION TO ATTENDANCE BY SOVIET MILREPS AT RECEPTION REFERRED TO IN REFTEL A). SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN WREATH-LAYING PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY OR DESIRABLE SINCE IT WOULD TEND TO DOWNPLAY U.S. ROLE THERE, BUT IF GOC INSISTS, WE COULD AGREE.

2. WE BELIEVE IT ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT GOC INVITE U.S. VETERANS' GROUP TO PARTICIPATE IN WREATH-LAYING AND IN RECEPTION. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT NOT REPEAT NOT IN POSITION TO FUND TRAVEL TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY VETERANS. IF CZECHOSLOVAKS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO PICK UP TRAVEL TAB, WE COULD EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING LOCAL VETERANS GROUPS PAY EXPENSES, BUT BELIEVE THAT CHANCES OF THAT HAPPENING

ARE REMOTE. KISSINGER

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